

URBAN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING
MINUTES

May 7, 2003
ACWMD Headquarters
12300 Lower Azusa Road
Arcadia California

In Attendance:

Ray Smith, L.A. County Dept. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
Jim Hartman, L.A. County Dept. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
William Calicchia, L.A. County Sheriff Dept.
William R. Taber IV, Inland Valley Human Society SPCA
Meg Breit, City of Glendora Animal Control
Jennifer Hodgen, Pasadena Humane Society - SPCA
John Embery, L.A. County Department of Animal Care and Control
Dan Fox, Animal Pest Management
Dr. Karen Ehnert, L.A. County Dept. of Health Services, Veterinary Public Health, Rabies Control Program
Joe Ramirez, L.A. Dept. of Health Services, Vector Management
Janet Berry, City of West Covina
Michelle Cullens, Mountain Lion Foundation and On the Edge
Andrea Gullo, Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority
Troy Boswell, L.A. City, Animal Services
Kim Bosell, Monrovia Canyon Park
Susan Immer, Monrovia Canyon Park
Mollie Hogan, The Nature of Wildworks
Bill Brown, USDA, Forest Service
Richard Iizuka, L.A. County Dept. Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures
Stan Zone, Dept. Fish & Game, Orange County Senior Volunteer
Jeff Robbins, Dept. Fish & Game, Orange County Senior Volunteer
Kathleen Burr, L.A. County Farm Bureau
Kent Smirl, Dept. Fish & Game
Carolyn H. Atchison, Mountains Restoration Trust
Amy Henderson, Puente Hills Habitat Authority
Neil Kelley, Nature of Wildworks
Judy Meraz, Animal Control, L.A. County
John Turman, USDA, Wildlife Services

The meeting was opened at 10:10 a.m., by Ray Smith

1. Welcome/Introduction

The concept of the Urban Wildlife Management Association was reviewed for new attendees (for a complete explanation of the concept, mission, goals, etc., of the UWMA, see the minutes of the April 3, 2003 introductory meeting at <http://acwm.co.la.ca.us/pdf/aprilminutes.pdf>)

The group was reminded that participation in the UWMA will not necessarily require or bind individuals, or the organizations they represent, to doing a lot of extra work! Just attending quarterly meetings, giving input and voting when necessary.

2. *The California Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG), Senior Volunteer Program - Kent Smirl, CDFG*

Lt. Kent Smirl of the California Department of Fish and Game gave a presentation to the group about this innovative new program. The program utilizes the expertise, enthusiasm, and work ethic of volunteer seniors who want to give something back to the community. The volunteers help wardens with some of their non-enforcement workload such as community outreach/education, data input, public inquiries, monitoring some state-managed lands, etc.

To qualify, volunteers must be at least 50 years of age and willing to commit to at least 24 hours each month. They must also complete an 80 hour training academy. The program is in operation now in San Diego and Orange counties with plans to expand into Los Angeles County and beyond.

Michelle Cullens, from *ON THE EDGE* (OTE), took the opportunity to tell the group about this new enterprise. OTE is a group dedicated to helping people live harmoniously with native wildlife through an education/outreach program directed towards homeowners who live in areas bordering wildlands. For now, OTE's primary focus is in the Santa Monica mountains. Their next meeting will be in the Calabasas/Agoura area, on July 9, at the California Wildlife Center. They are working with the City of Calabasas on developing a web site. OTE had a media event recently which was very favorably covered by the Los Angeles Times, May 3 edition.

3. *Participation/Outreach*

Ray asked if anyone had any other suggestions on who should join the group, and asked that those suggestions be sent to him by e-mail (ray@acwm.co.la.ca.us).

4. *The MOU is the Thing!*

The MOU will give structure, rules to go by, and the "legitimacy" the group may need when it eventually seeks grants, funding, etc. Ray explained the three main sections to the MOU, which are the body, the activity page and the signature page. The activity page has the types of things each organization/entity is willing to commit to. The signature page of the MOU goes to each organization for signature. The last day to comment on or suggest changes to the MOU is May 28. It will eventually have to go before the L.A. County Board of Supervisors for final approval. (It has already been approved as to form by County Counsel).

Who is authorized to sign? It is up to the individual to decide who in their organization is authorized to do so.

What if you or your organization does not sign the MOU? It just means you can't vote, you can still attend the meetings. The meetings will be public and subject to the Brown Act.

It was suggested that the UWMA may eventually take positions of support/oppose on pending legislation and may even write some of its own. This was highly controversial with some organizations expressing the opinion they may not even be able to join if this were the case. It now seems almost certain the UWMA will not be involved with political issues.

5. *New business*

Dr. Karen Ehnert, L.A. County Veterinary, Public Health, gave an extensive update on West Nile disease. No positives (for animals) in California yet, but it is eminent. They are working on a quick test that should be available in about 4 weeks, that will give test results within one hour. Mosquito control is our first line of defense and is available in L.A. County and elsewhere through the various mosquito abatement programs.

6. *Future Meetings*

Meetings from now on will be held quarterly. The next meeting dates are: June 19, September 25, and December 11.

Agendas will be sent out and posted on the Agricultural Commissioner webpage at least one month in advance. For those interested, continuing education hours will be given when appropriate. Suggestions for alternate meeting locations are welcomed.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by Rose Santos, Secretary